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The PRESENT. An elliptical expression for the *present* time; the time now existing.

When he saw descend
The son of God to judge them, terrify'd
He fled; not hoping to escape, but shun
The *present*; fearing guilty, what his wrath
Might suddenly inflict. *Milton.*
Men that set their hearts only upon the *present*, without
looking forward into the end of things are struck at. *L'Estr.*
Who, since their own short understandings reach
No further than the *present*, think ev'n the wife,
Speak what they think, and tell tales of themselves. *Roscoe.*
At PRESENT. [*à present*, Fr.] At the present time; now;
elliptically, for the *present* time.
The state is at *present* very sensible of the decay in their
trade. *Addison.*

PRESENT. *n. f.* [*present*, Fr. from the verb.]
1. A gift; a donative; something ceremoniously given.
Plain Clarence!

I will send thy soul to heav'n,
If heav'n will take the *present* at our hands. *Shakespeare.*
His dog to-morrow, by his master's command, he must
carry for a *present* to his lady. *Shakespeare.*
He sent part of the rich spoil, with the admiral's ensign, as
a *present* unto Solymán. *Kneller's Hist. of the Turks.*
Say heav'nly muse, shall not thy sacred vein
Afford a *present* to the infant God?
Hast thou no verse, no hymn, no solemn strain,
To welcome him to this his new abode?
They that are to love inclin'd,
Sway'd by chance, not choice or art
To the first that's fair or kind,
Make a *present* of their heart. *Waller.*
Somewhat is sure design'd by fraud or force;
Trust not their *present*s, nor admit the horse. *Dryden.*

2. A letter or mandate exhibited.
Be it known to all men by these *present*s. *Shakespeare.*

TO PRESENT. *v. a.* [*presento*, low Lat. *presenter*, Fr. in all
the senses.]

1. To place in the presence of a superior.
On to the sacred hill
They led him high applauded, and *present*
Before the seat supreme. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. vi.*
2. To exhibit to view or notice.
He knows not what he says; and vain is it,
That we *present* us to him. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*

3. To offer; to exhibit.
Thou therefore now advise,
Or hear what to my mind first thoughts *present*. *Milton.*
Now ev'ry leaf, and ev'ry moving breath
Presents a foe, and ev'ry foe a death. *Denham.*
Lecturides's memory is ever ready to offer to his mind
something out of other men's writings or conversations, and
is *presenting* him with the thoughts of other persons perpetually.
Watts's Improvement of the Mind.

4. To give formally and ceremoniously.
Folks in mudwall tenement,
Affording pepper-corn for rent,
Present a turkey or a hen
To those might better spare them ten. *Prior.*

5. To put into the hands of another.
So ladies in romance assist their knight,
Present the spear, and arm him for the fight. *Dryden.*
6. To favour with gifts. To *present*, in the sense of to give,
has several structures: we say absolutely, to *present* a man, to
give something to him. This is less in use. The common
phrases are to *present* a gift to a man; or, to *present* the man
with a gift.

Thou spendest thy time in waiting upon such a great one,
and thy estate in *presenting* him; and, after all, half no other
reward, but sometimes to be smiled upon, and always to be
smiled at. *South's Sermons.*

He now *presents*, as ancient ladies do,
That courted long, at length are forc'd to woo. *Dryden.*
Octavia *presented* the poet, for his admirable elegy on her
son Marcellus. *Dryden.*

Should I *present* thee with rare figur'd plate,
O how thy rising heart would throb and beat. *Dryden.*

7. To prefer to ecclesiastical benefices.
That he put these bishops in the places of the deceased by
his own authority, is notoriously false; for the duke of Saxony
always *presented*. *Atterbury.*

8. To offer openly.
He was appointed admiral, and *presented* battle to the
French navy, which they refused. *Hayward.*

9. To introduce by something exhibited to the view or notice.
Not in use.
Tell on, quoth she, the woful tragedy,
The which these relics had *present* unto. *Spenser.*

10. To lay before a court of judicature, as an object of en-
quiry.
The grand juries were practised effectually with to *present*
the said pamphlet, with all aggravating epithets. *Swift.*

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PRESENTANEUS. *adj.* [from *presentaneus*, Lat.] Ready;
quick; immediate.

Some plagues partake of such malignity, that, like a *pre-*
sentaneus poison, they enecate in two hours. *Harvey.*

PRESENTABLE. *adj.* [from *present*.] What may be presented.
Incumbents of churches *presentable* cannot, by their sole
act, grant their incumbencies to others; but may make
leaves of the profits thereof. *Ayliffe's Paragon.*

PRESENTATION. *n. f.* [*presentation*, Fr. from *present*.]

1. The act of presenting.
Prayers are sometimes a *presentation* of mere desires, as a
mean of procuring desired effects at the hands of God. *Hooker.*
2. The act of offering any one to an ecclesiastical benefice.
He made effectual provision for recovery of advowsons and
presentations to churches. *Hale.*
What, shall the curate controul me? have not I the *pre-*
sentation? *Gay.*

3. Exhibition.
These *presentations* of fighting on the stage, are necessary
to produce the effects of a heroic play. *Dryden.*

4. This word is misprinted for *pre cision*.
Although in sundry animals, we deny not a kind of natural
meteorology, or innate *presentation* both of wind and weather,
yet that proceeding from sense, they cannot retain that ap-
prehension after death. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

PRESENTATIVE. *adj.* [from *present*.] Such as that presenta-
tions may be made of it.

Mrs. Gullston possessed of the improper parsonage of Bar-
well, did procure from the king leave to annex the same to
the vicarage, and to make it *presentative*, and gave them both
to St. John's College in Oxon. *Spelman.*

PRESENTÉE. *n. f.* [from *présenté*, Fr.] One presented to a
benefice.

Our laws make the ordinary a disturber, if he does not
give institution upon the fitness of a person presented to him,
or at least give notice to the patron of the disability of his
présentée. *Ayliffe's Paragon.*

PRESENTER. *n. f.* [from *present*.] One that presents.

The thing was acceptable, but not the *presenter*. *L'Estr.*

PRESENTIAL. *adj.* [from *present*.] Supposing actual presence.

By union, I do not understand that which is local or *pre-*
sential, because I consider God as omnipresent. *Norris.*

PRESENTIALITY. *n. f.* [from *présential*.] State of being
présential.

This eternal, indivisible act of his existence makes all
futures actually present to him; and it is the *présentiality* of
the object, which founds the unerring certainty of his know-
ledge. *South's Sermons.*

TO PRESENTIATE. *v. a.* [from *présent*.] To make present.
The fancy may be to strong, as to *présentiate* upon one
theatre, all that ever it took notice of in times past: the
power of fancy, in *présentiating* any one thing that is past,
being no less wonderful, than having that power, it should
also acquire the perfection to *présentiate* them all. *Græc.*

PRESENTIFICK. *adj.* [*présens* and *facies*, Latin.] Making
present. Not in use.

PRESENTIFICKLY. *adv.* [from *présentifick*.] In such a manner
as to make present.

The whole evolution of times and ages, from everlasting to
everlasting, is collectively and *présentifickly* represented to God
at once, as if all things and actions were, at this very instant,
really present and existent before him. *More.*

PRESENTLY. *adv.* [from *présent*.]

1. At present; at this time; now.
The towns and forts you *présently* have, are still left unto
you to be kept either with or without garrisons, so as you
alter not the laws of the country. *Stany.*

I hope we may presume, that a rare thing it is not in the
church of God, even for that very word which is read to be
présently their joys, and afterwards their study that hear it.
Hooker, b. v. f. 2.

To speak of it as requir'd, would require very long dis-
course; all I will *présently* say is this. *Hooker, b. i. f. 10.*

Covetous ambition, thinking all too little which *présently*
it hath, supposeth itself to stand in need of all which it hath
not. *Raleigh's Essays.*

2. Immediately; soon after.
Tell him, that no history can match his policies, and *pre-*
sently the foe shall measure himself by himself. *South.*

PRESENTMENT. *n. f.* [from *présent*.]

1. The act of presenting.
When comes your book forth?
Upon the heels of my *présentment*. *Shakespeare.*

2. Any thing presented or exhibited; representation.
Thus I hurl

My dazzling spells into the spongy air,
Of power to cheat the eye with bleat illusion,
And give it false *présentments*, left the place
And my quaint habits breed astonishment. *Milton.*

3. In law, *présentment* is a mere denunciation of the jurors them-
selves or some other officer, as justice, constable, searcher, sur-
veyors, and, without any information, of an offence in-
quireable in the court to which it is presented. *Cowell.*

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The grand juries were practised effectually with, to present
the said pamphlet with all aggravating epithets, and their *pre-*
sentments published for several weeks in all the news-papers.
Swift to Pope.

PRE'SENTNESS. *n. f.* [from *présent*.] Presence of mind; quick-
ness at emergencies.

Goring had a much better understanding, a much keener
courage, and *présentness* of mind in danger. *Clarendon.*

PRESERVATION. *n. f.* [from *præservare*.] The act of preserv-
ing; care to preserve; act of keeping from destruction, de-
cay, or any ill.

Nature does require
Her times of *præservation*, which, perforce,
I give my tendance to. *Shakespeare. Henry VIII.*

The eyes of the Lord are upon them that love him, he is
their mighty protection, a *præservation* from stumbling, and
a help from falling. *Ecclesi. xxxiv. 16.*

Ev'ry senseless thing, by nature's light,
Doth *præservation* seek, destruction shun.
Our allwise maker has put into man the uneasiness of hun-
ger, thirst, and other natural desires, to determine their wills
for the *præservation* of themselves, and the continuation of
their species. *Locke.*

PRESERVATIVE. *n. f.* [*præservativus*, Fr. from *præservare*.] That
which has the power of preserving; something preventive;
something that confers security.

If we think that the church needeth not those ancient *præ-*
servatives, which ages before us were glad to use, we de-
ceive ourselves. *Hooker.*

It hath been anciently in use to wear tablets of arsenick,
as *præservatives* against the plague; for that being poisons
themselves, they draw the venom to them from the spirits. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*

Were there truth herein, it were the best *præservative* for
princes, and persons exalted unto such fears. *Brown.*

Bodies kept clean, which use *præservatives*, are likely to
escape infection. *Harvey.*

The most effectual *præservative* of our virtue, is to avoid
the conversation of wicked men.
Molly is an Egyptian plant, and was really made use of
as a *præservative* against enchantment. *Brown's Notes on Ody.*

TO PRESERVE. *v. a.* [*præservo*, low Latin; *præservo*, Fr.]

1. To save; to defend from destruction or any evil; to keep.
The Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and *præ-*
serve me unto his heavenly kingdom. *2 Tim. iv. 18.*

God sent me to *præserve* you a posterity, and save your
lives. *Gen. xlv. 7.*

She shall lead me soberly in my doings, and *præserve* me in
her power. *Wisdom ix. 11.*

He did too frequently gratify their unjustifiable designs, a
guilt all men, who are obnoxious, are liable to, and can
hardly *præserve* themselves from. *Clarendon.*

We can *præserve* unhurt our minds.

To be indifferent, which of two opinions is true, is the
right temper of the mind, that *præserves* it from being im-
pelled on, till it has done its best to find the truth. *Locke.*

Every petty prince in Germany must be intreated to *præ-*
serve the queen of Great Britain upon her throne. *Swift.*

2. To season fruits and other vegetables with sugar and in other
proper pickles: as, to *præserve* plums, walnuts, and cucumbers.

PRESERVE. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Fruit preserved whole in
sugar.

All this is easily discerned in those fruits, which are
brought in *præserves* unto us. *Brown.*

The fruit with the hulk, when tender and young, makes
a good *præserve*. *Mortimer.*

PRESERVER. *n. f.* [from *præservare*.]

1. One who preserves; one who keeps from ruin or mischief.
Sit, my *præservo*, by thy patient's side. *Shakespeare.*

To be always thinking, perhaps, is the privilege of the
infinite author and *præservo* of things, who never slumbers
nor sleeps; but is not competent to any finite being. *Locke.*

Andrew Doria has a statue erected to him, with the glo-
rious title of deliverer of the commonwealth; and one of his
family another, that calls him its *præservo*. *Addison.*

2. He who makes preserves of fruit.
TO PRESIDE. *v. n.* [from *præsideo*, Lat. *presider*, Fr.] To
be set over; to have authority over.

Some o'er the publick magazines *preside*,
And some are sent new forage to provide. *Dryden.*

O'er the plans
Of thriving peace, thy thoughtful fires *preside*. *Thomson.*

PRESIDENCY. *n. f.* [*presidencia*, Fr. from *president*.] Superin-
tendence.
What account can be given of the growth of plants from
mechanical principles, moved without the *presidency* and guidance
of some superior agent. *Roy on the Creation.*

PRESIDENT. *n. f.* [*præsidentis*, Lat. *president*, Fr.]

1. One placed with authority over others; one at the head of
others.
As the *president* of my kingdom, will I
Appear there for a man. *Shakespeare. Ant. and Cleop.*

The tutor sits in the chair as *president* or moderator, to see
that the rules of disputation be observed. *Watts.*

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2. Governour; prefect.
How might those captive Israelites, under the oversight and
government of Assyrian *presidents*, be able to leave the
places they were to inhabit. *Breerewood on Languages.*

3. A tutelary power.
This last complaint th' indulgent ears did pierce
Of just Apollo, *president* of verse. *Waller.*

PRESIDENTSHIP. *n. f.* [from *president*.] The office and place
of president.

When things came to trial of practice, their pastors learn-
ing would be at all times of force to overpersuade simple men,
who, knowing the time of their own *presidentship* to be but
short, would always stand in fear of their ministers perpetual
authority. *Hooker's Preface.*

PRESIDIAL. *adj.* [*præsidium*, Lat.] Relating to a garrison.

TO PRESS. *v. a.* [*presser*, Fr. *presser*, *pressus*, Lat.]

1. To squeeze; to crush.
The grapes I *pressed* into Pharaoh's cup. *Gen. xl. 11.*
Good measure *pressed* down, shaken together, and running
over, shall men give into your bosom. *Luke vi. 38.*

From sweet kernels *press'd*,
She tempers dulcet creams. *Milton.*

I put pldgets of lint *pressed* out on the excoriation. *Wifem.*
Their morning milk the peasants *press* at night,
Their evening milk before the rising light. *Dryden.*

After *pressing* out of the colesed for oil in Lincolnshire,
they burn the cakes to heat their ovens. *Mortimer.*

2. To distress; to crush with calamities.
Once or twice the heav'd the name of father
Pantingly forth, as if it *press'd* her heart. *Shakespeare.*

3. To constrain; to compel; to urge by necessity.
The experience of his goodness in her own deliverance,
might cause her merciful disposition to take so much the more
delight in saving others, whom the like necessity should
press. *Hooker.*

The posts that rode upon mules and camels, went out,
being hastened and *pressed* on by the king's commands. *Esther.*

I was *press'd* by his majesty's commands, to assist at the
treaty. *Temple's Miscel.*

He gapes; and straight
With hunger *press'd*, devours the pleasing bait. *Dryden.*

He *press'd* a letter upon me, within this hour, to deliver
to you. *Dryden's Spanish Fryar.*

4. To drive by violence.
Come with words as medical as true,
Honest as either, to purge him of that humour
That *presses* him from sleep. *Shakespeare.*

5. To affect strongly.
Paul was *pressed* in spirit, and testified to the Jews that
Jesus was Christ. *Acts xviii. 5.*

Wickedness condemned by her own witness, and *pressed*
with conscience, forceth grievous things. *Wisdom xvii. 11.*

6. To enforce; to inculcate with argument or importunity.
Be sure to *press* upon him every motive. *Addison.*

I am the more bold to *press* it upon you, because these ac-
complishments fit more handsomely on persons of quality,
than any other. *Felton on the Cliffs.*

Those who negotiated, took care to make demands im-
possible to be complied with; and therefore might securely
press every article, as if they were in earnest. *Swift.*

7. To urge; to bear strongly on.
Chymists I may *press* with arguments, drawn from some of
the eminentest writers of their sect. *Boyle.*

8. To compress; to hug, as in embracing.
He *press'd* her matron lips
With kisses pure. *Milton.*

She took her son, and *press'd*
Th' illustrious infant to her fragrant breast. *Dryden.*

His easy heart receiv'd the guilty flame,
And from that time he *press'd* her with his passion. *Smith.*

And *press'd* Palemon closer in her arms. *Pope.*

9. To act upon with weight.
The place thou *press'st* on thy mother earth,
Is all thy empire now: now it contains thee. *Dryden.*

10. To make earnest. *Press* is here perhaps rather an adjective;
press, Fr. or from *presser* or *empresse*, Fr.

Let them be *press'd*, and ready to give succours to their
confederates, as it ever was with the Romans; for if the
confederate had leagues defensive with divers other states, and
implored their aids, the Romans would ever be the formost.
Bacon's Essays.

Press for their country's honour and their king's,
On their sharp beaks they whet their pointed things. *Dryden.*

11. To force into military service. This is properly *impress*.
Do but say to me what I should do,
That in your knowledge may by me be done,
And I am *press'd* into it. *Shakespeare.*

For every man that Bolingbroke hath *press'd*
To lift sharp steel against our golden crown,
Heav'n for his Richard hath in store
A glorious angel. *Shakespeare. Richard II.*

From London by the king was I *press'd* forth. *Shakespeare.*
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